



Bishop John Barres' Tribute to Bishop Edward Cullen

Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Allentown

May 12, 2023

I would like to offer my prayers and sympathy to Bishop Alfred Schlert and the People of God of the Diocese of Allentown on the death of Bishop Edward Cullen.

I served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown from 2009 to 2016. My predecessor Bishop Cullen always had wise, generous and creative counsel. He had a powerful intellect and exuded a radiant compassion. He had great strategic evangelizing vision and in his vast experience of Church governance was practical and knew how to get things done in a collaborative spirit. He was also a lot of fun and had a quick and intelligent sense of humor that always set you at ease.

But what I will always treasure most was Bishop Cullen's commitment to a deep contemplative spirit of prayer and complete devotion and trust in the Holy Spirit.

I would love to sit in his presence and listen to his latest reflections on the theology and daily experience of the Holy Spirit.

In his book *Lord God Holy Spirit Sanctifier*, he wrote: "Once a soul not only believes but actually experiences the guidance and the protection of the Holy Spirit, that soul will vigorously explore how to become more deeply united with God's indwelling presence."

While these words were written as a catechesis of the Holy Spirit and prayer, they were profoundly autobiographical.

That is the gift and inspiration that Bishop Edward Cullen gave to me and to so many of us. As we pray for his soul, let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us the spiritual depth that he always encouraged us to pursue.

Come Holy Spirit!

+ John O. Barres

